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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-third session

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Letter dated 11 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of African States for the month of August, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly of an additional item of particular importance to African countries, entitled "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa". It is proposed that this additional item be considered directly in plenary meetings.

Should the General Assembly decide to include this important item in its agenda, and to consider it directly in plenary meetings, it would be desirable for it to be considered as close as possible to the end of the general debate of the General Assembly. This is to facilitate participation at a higher level in the consideration of this item.

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, this request is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.

(*Signed*) Martin **Andjaba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Explanatory memorandum

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The Security Council convened at the level of Foreign Ministers on 25 September 1997 to consider the need for a concerted international effort for the promotion of peace and security in Africa. Among other things, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report regarding the sources of conflict in Africa, ways to prevent and address them, and how to lay the foundation for durable peace and economic growth.

On 13 April 1998, the Secretary-General issued a report (A/52/871-S/1998/318) on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. This report was subsequently considered by the Security Council on 28 May 1998, followed by the adoption of resolution 1170 (1998).

Furthermore, the above-mentioned report, owing to the fact that it addresses challenges which exceed the purview of the Security Council, was submitted among others to the General Assembly for consideration.

Today parts of the African continent are mired in conflict, which is hampering development and thus causing immense social strife. Despite the various efforts put in place by African Governments, the socio-economic situation in Africa remains precarious owing to a combination of factors, including unfavourable external economic conditions.

In addition, a number of international commitments and undertakings aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict in Africa so as to ensure long-term stability, peace and sustained economic growth and development are to a large extent not fully implemented.

Good governance, which is an important prerequisite for sustained socio-economic development, is undermined through lost economic productivity, the destruction of physical and social infrastructure, refugees, environmental degradation and human suffering.

Humanitarian assistance is not sufficiently tailored to the multi-dimensional needs of refugees, especially women and children.

All these factors, among others, need to be comprehensively addressed by the international community in order to enhance development in Africa.